

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CANTON ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LIBERTY FEST

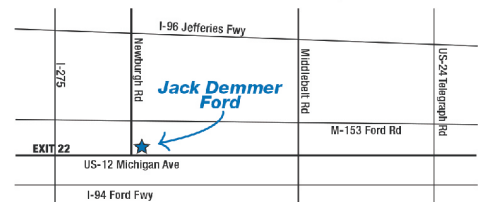
JUNE 13, 14 AND 15, 2019



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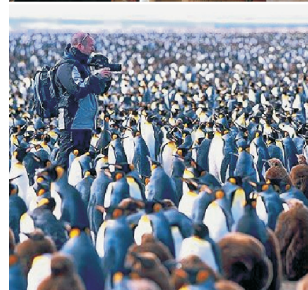
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Welcome to the Liberty Festival

Each June for the last 27 years, the Canton community has come together to celebrate Liberty Fest. This year, from June 13-15, Heritage Park will once again be alive with the sounds of summer. When I think of Liberty Fest, I think of music, fun, food and laughter with my friends and family, and Canton's 28th annual festival promises all that and more.

As always, my personal favorite event of the weekend is the Saturday morning Canton Lions Club Pancake Breakfast in the north pavilion from 7-11 a.m.

However, there is always something exciting going on throughout the weekend. Thursday and Friday evenings feature live entertainment on stages all around the park. This year, Friday evening will also feature Canton's Largest Ice Cream Social at the Canton LIVE! stage.

Of course, what would Liberty Fest be without the wide variety of food and beverages available throughout the park? The Beer and Wine Garden and the Taste of Liberty Fest will be located

near the amphitheater once again, where festival-goers can enjoy signature menu items from area restaurants, and adult beverages. Of course other festival favorites will be available all weekend. We are talking about corn dogs, cotton candy, kettle corn, elephant ears and more!

And let's not forget about the carnival rides! They will be available every day for the adventure-seekers in your family. Wristbands are available for purchase on site or at a discounted rate online at www.cantonlibertyfest.com before June 13 at noon.

The Liberty Fest weekend comes to a magical close on Saturday night when the sky comes alive with color and sound with one of the largest and most spectacular fireworks shows in Michigan. Tens of thousands of neighbors will fill Heritage Park, area backyards, Pheasant Run Golf Club, and roads in the area to view this absolutely incredible aerial show.

We are honored to continue Canton's 28-year tradition of presenting a family-friendly weekend event. Most



Canton Supervisor Pat Williams

events and activities are available with little or no cost to festival attendees. For a full schedule of events, please visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com

I hope to see all of you out at Liberty Fest 2019!

Pat Williams
Canton Supervisor





Wounded Warrior brings healing yoga to park

Visitors to the Canton Liberty Fest will have a chance to meet a real hero and perhaps change their lives.

Dan Nevins will teach a special Wounded Warrior Yoga session at the Amphitheater from 10-11 a.m. Saturday to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

After 36 surgeries and the loss of both legs, Nevins understands pain and loss and is well aware that the most serious injuries can be invisible.

Nevins, a highly decorated soldier, was severely injured during combat on the morning of Nov. 10, 2004 in Iraq when an improvised explosive device

detonated beneath the Humvee in which he and another soldier were traveling. His friend was killed and Nevins said he was afraid he would also be found dead in the dirt.

"I tried to stop the bleeding, and I thought: 'This is it. I'm going to die right here,' " he said. He was evacuat-

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ed and the surgeries began. He spent nearly two years in and out of Walter Reed Medical Center undergoing multiple surgeries eventually leaving him with prosthetics on both legs. He was also diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and the years after the 2004 attack left him anxious, restless and plagued with nightmares.

When he became comfortable with his new prosthetics, Nevins threw himself into adaptive sports, taking up golfing, skydiving, skiing, even mountain climbing. Nevins credits Wounded Warrior Project with his successful rehabilitation, which instilled a "can-do" attitude, positive outlook and passion for helping his fellow wounded warriors in him. He quickly became an advocate for the organization, inspiring both his peers and the public to create positive change for themselves and those around them, simply by sharing his powerful story. In 2008, Dan received WWP's highest honor,

*The fact is, all of us
are living with
the invisible wounds
of some kind of war.*

the George C. Lang Award for Courage, for his efforts on behalf of the organization. He went on to become the director of WWP Warriors Speak program, where he taught other wounded warriors and their caregivers how to share their stories with the public and serve as spokespeople for the organization, much like he had.

But Nevins soon found that his rehabilitation was not complete as his wounds, both physical and emotional, continued to plague the peace he thought he had found in helping other veterans.

"Everything looked great on the outside," he said. "But inside, I felt disconnected and ungrounded. All of the sports I was doing helped with my physical healing, but the invisible wounds had caught up with me."

And he was embarrassed about his prosthetics.

"I was ashamed for people to see me without them," he said. "I'd always been proud of my legs. They were my best feature."

"I was chasing Benadryl with whiskey, hoping I wouldn't wake up," said Nevins, a retired Army staff sergeant. "I was spiraling downhill fast."

In 2014, upon reaching a new low and trying to find his way out, Nevins called a friend, a certified yoga instructor who offered him three free lessons to help with his despair, an offer he did not accept graciously.

"I said, 'That's the dumbest thing

See **Yoga**, page 4

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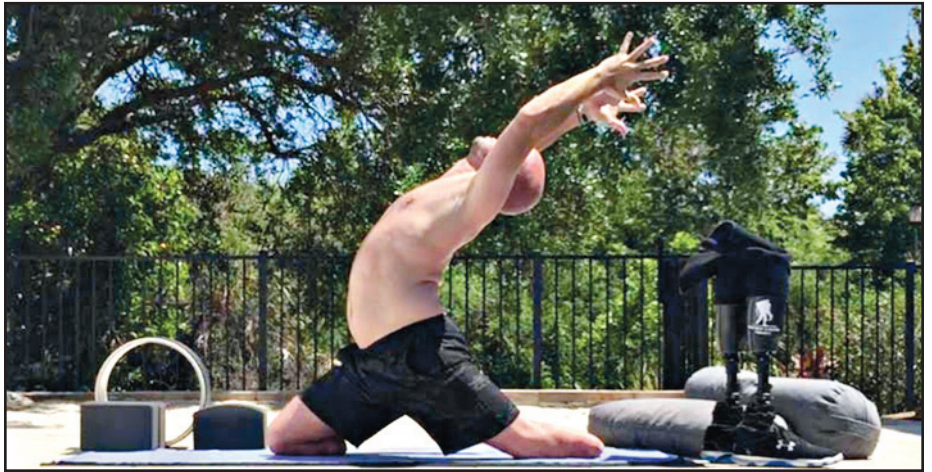


Yoga from page 3

I've heard,' " recalled Nevins, who lives near Jacksonville, FLa. But he eventually agreed to give yoga a try. At his first lesson, he found himself frustrated, wobbling and unstable on his prosthetics. In a fit of resentment, Nevins took off his prosthetic legs and flung them aside, a radical move because he said, he was ashamed of his stumps - only his doctors and family had seen them.

His friend instructed him: Root down and rise up. This time, he imagined roots growing downward from his stumps. "I raised my arms, and it felt as though life was shooting out of my hands," he said. "Tears were streaming down my face."

Nevins couldn't wait for his next lesson and then the next. Now Nevins, 46, a single father of three, has made it his mission to encourage others to find yoga, whether wounded in war as he



was or just hoping to find new motivation and direction.

"The fact is, all of us are living with the invisible wounds of some kind of war," he said. "Yoga helps you to let go of the things that don't serve you anymore."

Nevins has been invited to teach yoga throughout the world, from the White House in Washington, DC to the

Africa Yoga Project in Nairobi, Kenya. When he's not leading classes for hundreds of participants, he can usually be found sharing his passion for life,

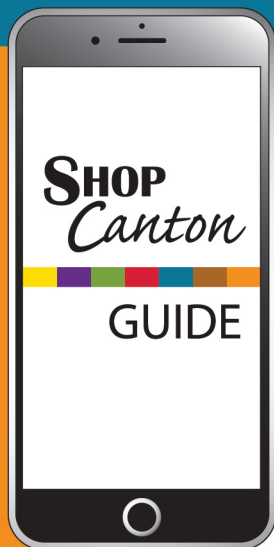
Registration for the Wounded Warrior Yoga session which is presented by Old Glory Flags and Flagpoles, is available online in advance at www.cantonlibertyfest.com or at the event for \$10.

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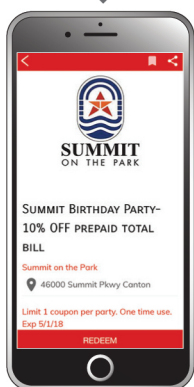
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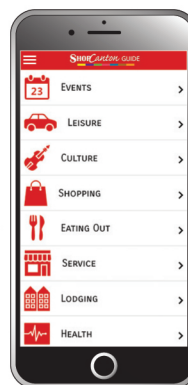
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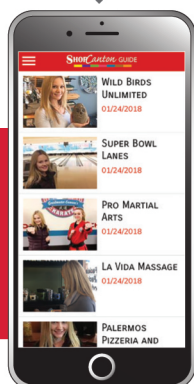
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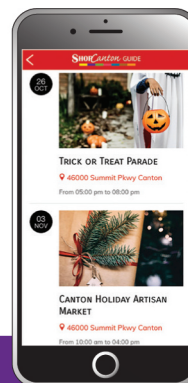
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Enjoy Local Tips and send your suggestions!



6.

Hear about community events with notifications



GREAT DEALS!

GET EVENT NOTIFICATIONS



Back by popular demand

Car show returns to Liberty Festival this year

Canton's 28th Annual Liberty Fest will once again feature a car and truck show around the picturesque ponds of Heritage Park. The Canton Liberty Fest Car and Truck Show will be take place Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 15, in partnership with United Street Machine Association Customs & Rods.

This popular Car and Truck Show will bring hundreds of classic, custom, special interest, street rods and trucks onto the grounds of Heritage Park, located behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. These unique vehicles will be on display on the last day of the Canton Liberty Fest. Admission into the Liberty Fest Car and Truck Show and parking are free.

"We're excited to be able to feature



such a great variety of cars and trucks at Liberty Fest this year," said Special Event Coordinator Gary Marks. "Festival-goers really seem to enjoy all of these vehicles set against the backdrop of Heritage Park and its trees and ponds."

Trophies will be awarded to individual classes, as well as "Best of Show" and "Outstanding" categories at a special

presentation ceremony at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

A special pre-registration cruise is planned for 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, from 4-7 p.m. at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, which is located at 1426 S. Mill Street in Plymouth.

United Street Machine Association Customs & Rods is celebrating its 40th year as a car club and has been hosting car-related events since the summer of 1971. Many of the original 'cruise crew' has been involved with organizing and producing top quality automotive events for thousands of car enthusiasts for years. For additional information about United Street Machine Association Customs & Rods, visit www.unitedstreetmachines.com.



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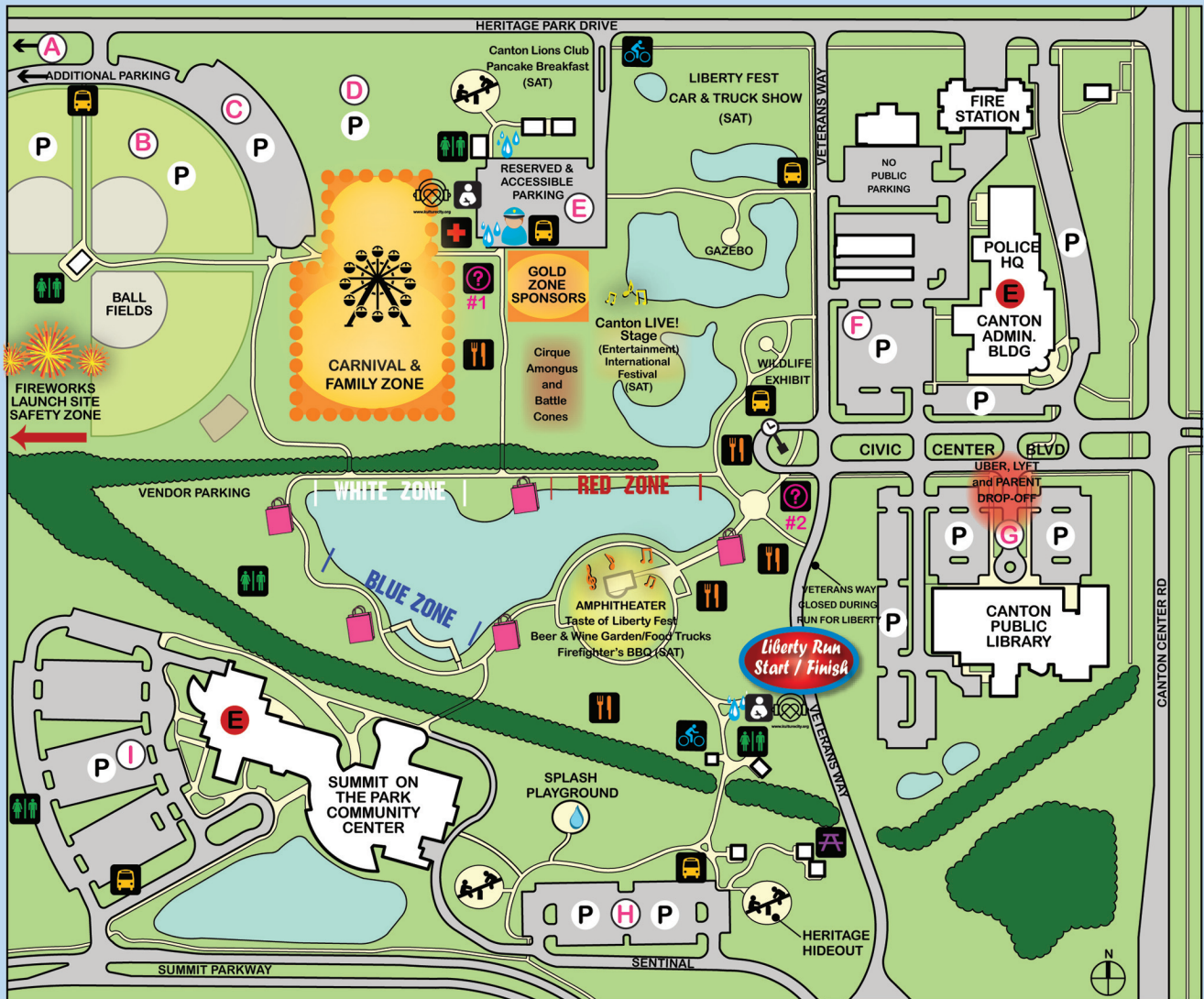
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Community Groups
Arts & Crafts
Business Vendors | Nursing/Diaper Changing Station |
| Picnic Area | Playground | Sensory Friendly Tent |
| Shuttle Pickup/-Dropoff | Parking | Mobile Command / Lost Child Station located next to Information Booth #1 |
| Welcome Booth | Emergency Shelter | Parking Lot Names |
| Bike Corral | Pond | |

Please no pets, rollerblades or skateboards. All bikes must be parked in the bike corral.

Canton Liberty Festival

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 13, 2019 1 -10 p.m.

Carnival

1-10 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets are required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (most rides require 2-5 tickets each except for 'Top Gun', which requires wristband plus 4 tickets OR 12 tickets).
- Thursday only wristbands: \$28 each - available for purchase during the festival.

Sensory Hours: Thursday only from 1 - 3 p.m. Perfect for guests sensitive to loud noises.

Save money and avoid long lines with ADVANCE TICKET SALES @ www.cantonlibertyfest.com

- Discounted single day wristband vouchers are available for purchase, \$24 online through Thursday, June 13 at noon (online sales require a \$.99 per transactions fee).
- Mega Bands - \$60 each. **AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLINE ONLY.** (Unlimited rides Thur, Fri, & Sat).
- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games).
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets.
- **All sales are final. No refunds.**

Entertainment Highlights

Amphitheater Stage

5 - 6:30 p.m. *The Favorites*: Dance music and classic rock.

5 - 7:30 p.m. *Club 55+ Liberty Fest Picnic*: Enjoy box dinner and entertainment. (\$)

8 - 9 p.m. *BINGO*: Adult Bingo with prizes. (\$)

8-10 p.m. *The Together Band*: Favorite hits from the 60s and 70s!

Canton LIVE! Stage

9-10 p.m. *Glow Zumba*: Bring your glow in the dark gear for an exciting night of Zumba in the dark! **Fee: FREE!**

Festival Food & Drink

Liberty Fest Beer and Wine Garden:

Thursday & Friday 4 - 10 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by O & W Distributors. Guests 21 years and older must show ID to purchase beer and wine.

1 p.m. - Dusk Concession Vendors – Enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and so much more!

Additional Highlights

Step Challenge: June 13-15. The Liberty Fest Committee wants to reward you for all the fitness that you're mixing in with festival fun! Stop by one of the information booths for details. #WalkLibFest & WIN!

Scholastic Book Fair: 1 p.m.-Dusk All proceeds from book sales provide books for our summer camps.

LEGO® Tent: 1 p.m.-Dusk Check out this amazing Lego Build that includes real moving LEGOS! Misting Stations: 4 - 8 p.m. Two free stations, located throughout the park will help you keep cool.

Oasis Animals: 1 p.m.-Dusk Petting farm & pony rides (\$)

Quench Carts: Located on each side of the park to get re-hydrated. At each cart, festival-goers can refill cups and water bottles.

Information is subject to change.

Want the Latest Festival Updates?

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CantonLibertyFest Follow us on twitter:

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#LibFest2019 Festival weather & emergency updates: Text LIBFEST to 84483

www.cantonlibertyfest.com (734) 394-5460



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 14, 2019 1-11 p.m.

Carnival

1 - 10 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets are required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (most rides require 2-5 tickets each except for 'Top Gun', which requires wristband plus 4 tickets OR 12 tickets).
- Friday only wristbands - \$30 each - available for purchase during the festival

Save money and avoid long lines with ADVANCE TICKET SALES @ www.cantonlibertyfest.com

- Discounted single day wristband vouchers are available for purchase, \$24 online through Thursday, June 13 at noon (online sales require a \$.99 per transactions fee).
- Mega Bands - \$60 each. **AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLINE ONLY.** (Unlimited rides Thur, Fri, & Sat).
- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games).
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets.
- **All sales are final. No refunds.**



Entertainment Highlights

Amphitheater Stage

5 - 7 p.m. Michigan Roads: Live acoustic music from multiple genres.

8 - 10 p.m. Cancel Monday: Detroit's premier wedding and corporate band playing the top 40 hits!

Canton LIVE! Stage

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Canton's Largest Ice Cream

Social: Enjoy an ice cream science show, featuring: Dr. Nitro, Silver Sounds D.J., strolling entertainment, and ice cream available for purchase (\$).

Beer & Wine Garden and Taste of Liberty Fest
LOCATED near the Amphitheater! Enjoy the Beer Garden area with lawn games & relaxed seating sponsored by IKEA & Home Advisor.

Festival Food & Drink

Liberty Fest Beer and Wine Garden:

Thursday & Friday 4 -10 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by O & W Distributors.

Guests 21 years and older must show ID to purchase beer and wine.

1 p.m. -Dusk Concession Vendors - Enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and, more!

4 p.m. - Dusk Taste of Liberty Fest - Area restaurants are on site offering their signature menu items! Located near the Amphitheater.

For a list of restaurants, visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com.

4 p.m. - Dusk Food Truck Rally - Enjoy gourmet eats from some of the finest Food Trucks. Located near the Amphitheater. For a list of Food Trucks, visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com.

Information is subject to change.

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Additional Highlights

Liberty Run Race Registration and Packet Pick-Up: 4 - 7 p.m. at Civic Center & Veteran's Way.

Marketplace: 4 p.m.-Dusk Local artisans, crafters, businesses, community groups, and vendors share their information, goods, and services around the large pond.

Step Challenge: June 13-15. The Liberty Fest Committee wants to reward you for all the fitness that you're mixing in with festival fun! Stop by one of the information booths for details. #WalkLibFest & WIN!

Mobile Escape Room: 1 -11 p.m. Try this quick mobile Escape Room - Liberty Fest style. Located near the beer and wine garden. (\$)

Cirque Amongous: 1 - 6 p.m. Interactive performances and demonstrations.

Scholastic Book Fair: 1 p.m. - Dusk All proceeds from book sales provide books for our summer camps.

LEGO Tent: 1 p.m.-Dusk Check out this amazing Lego Build that includes real moving LEGOS!

Oasis Animals: 1 p.m. - Dusk Petting farm & pony rides (\$)

Misting Stations: 1 - 8 p.m. Two free stations located throughout the park will help you keep cool.

Battle Cones: 6 - 11 p.m. Interactive games for the whole family.

Quench Carts: Located on each side of the park to get re-hydrated. At each cart, festival goers can refill cups and water bottles.

This event is Certified Sensory Inclusive™ by KultureCity.org. Stop by any tent featuring this logo for additional resources



Canton Liberty Festival

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 15, 2019 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Carnival

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (most rides require 2-5 tickets each except for 'Top Gun', which requires wristband plus 4 tickets OR 12 tickets).
- Saturday only wristbands - \$30 each - available for purchase during the festival

Save money and avoid long lines with ADVANCE TICKET SALES @ www.cantonlibertyfest.com

- Discounted single day wristband vouchers are available for purchase, \$24 online through Thursday, June 13 at noon (online sales require a \$.99 per transactions fee).
- Mega Bands - \$60 each. **AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLINE ONLY.** (Unlimited rides Thur, Fri, & Sat).
- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games).
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets. **All sales are final. No refunds.**

Liberty Run

8 a.m. ~ 5K 8:30 a.m. ~ 10K 10:15 a.m. ~ 1 mile Fun Run

Run, walk or stroll the beautiful flat, fast and accurate courses through neighborhood streets and the natural beauty of the Lower Rouge Trail. Medals for all finishers and T-shirts for all entrants. Themed Awards: Red, White & Blue and Superheroes! Visit www.cantonlibertyrun.com to register.

Liberty Fest Car & Truck Show

8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Enjoy a stroll around the gazebo and small pond, while viewing classic vehicles. Enjoy the sounds of DJ Rockin Ronnie.

Entertainment Highlights

Amphitheater Stage

2 - 8 p.m. Paint and Pour: Classes run every 90 minutes. Fee: \$20 includes art class, supplies, take home art piece, and one ticket to the beer and wine tent.

2 - 4 p.m. Community Showcase: Enjoy local performers including: Spotlight Players, Atomic Pom, and Evaline Productions.

4 - 5:30 p.m. Lisa Mary: Metro Detroit country singer-songwriter and award winning recording artist.

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Weekend Comeback: Playing a variety of covers from the 60s through today's hits!

8 - 10 p.m. Blue Spectrum: Playing favorite hits and a special Queen rendition.

Canton LIVE! Stage

11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. International Festival: Art, music, dance and traditions of our diverse community's cultures.

8 - 10 p.m. Circle of Sound: Performing a variety of R&B, classic rock, old, and new school tunes.

Festival Food & Drink

Liberty Fest Beer and Wine Garden:

Thursday & Friday 4-10 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Co-Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by O & W Distributors.

Guests 21 years and older must show ID to purchase beer and wine.

8 - 11 a.m. (or until sold out) Canton Lions Club Charity Pancake Breakfast

Located at the North Pavilions. All proceeds go to support the Canton Lions Club

Foundation. Pancakes will be prepared by Chris Cakes! \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Costume characters will be on site for you to visit with and get pictures with. Enjoy live music

1 p.m. - Dusk Concession Vendors - Enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and so much more!

Noon - Dusk Taste of Liberty Fest - Area restaurants are on site offering their signature menu items!

Located near the Amphitheater. For a list of restaurants, visit cantonlibertyfest.com.

4 p.m. - Dusk Food Truck Rally - Enjoy gourmet eats from some of the finest Food Trucks. Located near the Amphitheater. For a list of Food Trucks, visit cantonlibertyfest.com.



Information is subject to change.

'Safety First' is rule at Liberty Festival

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

As always, safety is the first and foremost consideration at the Canton Liberty Fest.

"We have officers that are trained to respond," said Sgt. Ed Johnson of the Canton police. There will be medics on golf carts traveling throughout Heritage Park during the festival who are trained to respond to any emergency, anything from serious heat strokes to the need for a Band-Aid.

Whatever the need, officials said, the medics on hand will be able to provide a quick response to ensure that the long track record for safety at the Liberty Festival remains intact.

There will also be police officers throughout the crowds during all hours of the celebration this year; some will be

wearing their uniforms, some will be on bicycles and some will be in plainclothes to ensure that everyone is kept safe and is considerate of others in the crowd. Additionally, township staff members have been trained as witnesses and observers to notice any untoward behavior in the crowds.

Jon LaFever, deputy director of Canton Leisure Services explained how important safety is in the extensive planning and management of the festival.

"We are very aggressive about safety," he said.

If a storm or other severe weather comes, it's "all hands on deck" with personnel including Leisure Services staff members helping folks get quickly to safety. "We've been running this festival long enough we know what to do," Johnson added.

Johnson said he is pleased with the

addition of the colorful and tall flags this year; a big help to him and colleagues.

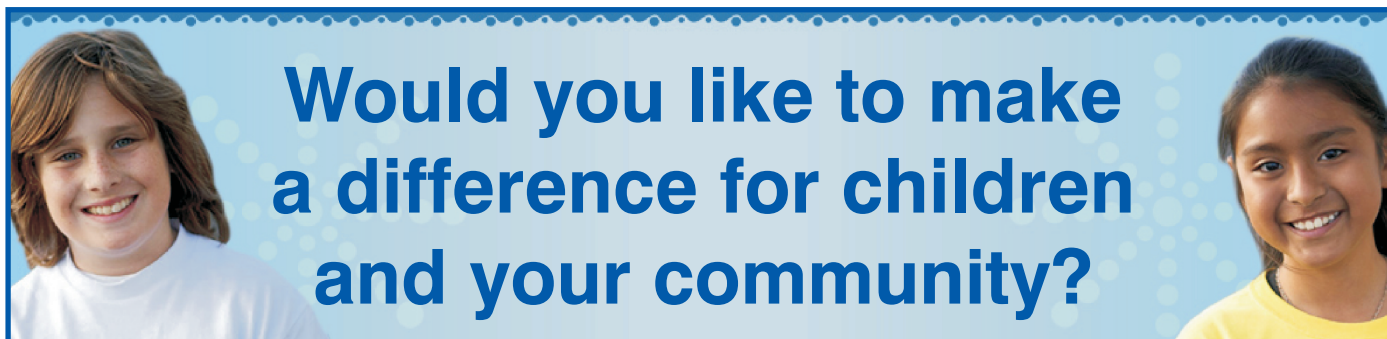
He said, overall, he feels the safety measures and techniques used in Canton will keep everyone safe and having a great time.

"Probably our biggest challenge is missing children," Johnson noted, but the folks from the Canton Leisure Services Department who organize the event have a solution. They have booths or tents set up at the entrances to Heritage Park where parents can obtain free identification wristbands for children.

"I think wristbands are very important," the sergeant said, noting that they allow park volunteers or police to identify the child and contact worried parents.

"We had a huge success with that last

See **Safety**, page 12



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Safety from page 11

year," he added, encouraging parents to use wristbands. The identity bands really help if children get off a carnival ride and get separated from parents or guardians in the crowd, he said.

He and public safety colleagues encourage Liberty Fest visitors to be considerate of others.

"It's a family event," said Johnson, noting alcohol and pets are banned from Heritage Park during the festival.

Excessive drinking isn't a big problem, as alcohol consumption is limited to a tent area for adults only which is a fundraiser for the Canton Rotary Club and is carefully monitored.

Fire Department personnel and other Canton Township staff are also involved in carnival ride safety, he explained. The Canton police move officers around on their shifts to cover both road patrol and festival needs.

New this year for the Liberty Fest are



colorful, tall flags to help safety personnel respond quickly. Those, said Johnson, are better than verbal location

descriptions such as "near the carnival rides" or a booth and make for much faster response time.

"For the most part, the traffic flow is good except for Saturday," he noted. The car show and Saturday night fireworks bring cars full of people to the park and he advises early arrivals and patience.

"We try to open up as much as we can," Johnson said of parking, which isn't a serious concern. Festival personnel don't worry too much about rain, but the fire marshal monitors the weather carefully during the event especially for an electrical storm. They have an automatic text alert system that can notify festival visitors of any impending weather situation which is monitored all week-end.

LaFever said the safety measures and techniques used in Canton will keep everyone safe and having a great time.

"All you have at the festival is your reputation. You lose that, you lose the crowds," he said.



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That's a B-I-N-G-O

Club 55+ members hosting fundraising games

Club 55+ members are taking their picnic outside and bringing Bingo to the Canton Liberty Fest this year.

The group of active seniors and not-yet-seniors typically get together for an annual picnic during the festival inside the Summit on the Park, where the majority of their usual activities take place, but this year are moving out near the amphitheater, so members can take advantage of the outdoors and nearby entertainment.

The picnic lunch will be available to anyone who registers ahead of time. Consisting of a boxed lunch from Lee's Chicken in Plymouth, it will cost \$10 for members of Summit on the Park, \$11 for Canton residents and \$13 for non-residents and include Bingo from 5:30-

”
*We know that many
of the people we serve
or on a fixed income.*

7:30 p.m. on Thursday. To register for the picnic, call the Canton Club desk at (734) 394-5485.

From 8-9 p.m., the club and the Canton Optimists Club will host a regular Bingo event, where anyone can participate at \$2 per card. The events are co-sponsored by Heartland Health Care Center and Glen Abbey Assisted Living.

Stephanie Diago Berkeley, adult programs specialist at Canton Township, said the Bingo event is a

fundraiser for Club 55+ and the Optimists. They'll split the proceeds in half.

“We try to keep our costs down,” she said. “We know that many of the people we serve or on a fixed income. These fundraisers help offset the costs of our programs and activities.”

Club 55+ offers a variety of programs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the week at the Summit on the Park, everything from sports to cards and games to Wii bowling leagues, crafts and more. The club is open to people ages 55 and older, she said, in recognition that more and more people are retiring early.

“We have a big mix of people,” she said.



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Putting the fun in fundraising at pancake breakfast

The Canton Lions Club will again be hosting their annual pancake breakfast at the Canton Liberty Fest.

Located in the pavilions off Heritage Park Drive, across from the car and truck show, the Lions will serve all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, June 15. Costumed characters will be around for pictures, too.

The Lions Club has hosted the breakfast for more than 10 years. This year, they are once again partnering with Chris Cakes of Michigan, based in Clare. Chris Cakes does more than flip the pancakes—they toss them high in the air as they're serving, putting the 'flap' in the flapjack, so to speak.

"The kids really enjoy it," said John Anthony, Canton Township trustee and a 10-year member of the Lions Club. He coordinates the breakfast each year. "We used them last year and we were really



pleased."

All proceeds go to support the Canton Lions Foundation, which funds a variety of local and regional charities that support sight, hearing and, more recently, diabetes-related causes.

"Every nickel goes to charity," Anthony said.

The Canton Lions Club is celebrating its 50th year in 2019. They supply schol-

arships to Plymouth-Canton students, support Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Penrickton Center for Blind Children, the Canton Library and much more. Anthony said the club frequently gets referrals from the school district about students having sight or hearing-related issues; they have contacts with local optometrists and hearing aid specialists and can help the children out.

"It makes a big difference," he said.

The Lions Club raises funds throughout the year with charity poker at Players Golf and Poker Room in Livonia and euchre fundraisers at the Elks Club in Plymouth that help generate more than \$20,000 annually that is directed to charitable causes.

"It's a very worthy cause," said Anthony. "We put in a lot of effort."

The pancake breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

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Cold beer - warm hearts

Sales of beer and wine will help fund Rotary Club projects

Scott Spielman
Special Writer

The Canton Rotary Club will offer up a variety of beverages to festival-goers this weekend at the Canton Liberty Festival.

Canton Rotarians and other volunteers will operate a beer and wine garden at the top of the hill near the amphitheater, as well as a booth selling soft drinks and water along the path closer to the main stage.

"We use the profits from this to support the charitable work we do throughout the year," said Susan Kowalski, president of the Canton Rotary Club.

The club will partner with O & W Distributors to provide craft beers, wines and hard ciders and the Canton Optimist Club, Plymouth A.M. Rotary and other volunteers to keep the lines flowing smoothly. Food trucks will be parked nearby, so attendees can grab some food, a drink and enjoy the entertainment on the main stage.

"It's all designed to be convenient," Kowalski said.

Chartered in 1977, the Canton Rotary Club has participated in the Liberty Fest for more than four years. They took over the beverage tent about three years ago. The funds they raise at

**The Beer and Wine garden
will be open from
4-10 p.m. Thursday and
Friday as well as
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
on Saturday.**

the Liberty Fest provide a number of benefits for the community.

The Rotarians provide scholarships for Plymouth-Canton students this year; they gave out \$5,000. They recently installed a free library, along with a bench nearby, in Griffin Park - they had previously funded one at Flodin Park and planted trees in Heritage Park and Griffin Park.

This year, Kowalski said the club is working with St. Vincent De Paul to supply kitchen kits to the working homeless in the community. Through the program, St. Vincent De Paul identifies the working families in needs, provides financial education, upgrades their job skills and helps them secure housing.

"Once they move into a home, they don't have anything," Kowalski said.

"We've applied for a grant to supply kitchen kits to these families."

They also partner with the larger Rotary Foundation to fund the Shelter Box program, which initiated in the United Kingdom about 19 years ago. Shelter Box provides necessities to families who are displaced by emergencies, including a tent, sleeping bags, water purifiers and other items packed into a plastic bin that can be used to collect rainwater when it's emptied.

They've partnered with Friends of the Rouge to plant rain gardens in the community, the Salvation Army to provide school supplies, scout troops to fund Eagle Scout banquets, bowling and pizza parties for international exchange students and more. Last year, they supplied 70 Christmas gift baskets that were distributed through Meals on Wheels to area seniors.

"For a lot of these seniors, it's the only Christmas gift they get," she said.

The Beer and Wine garden will be open from 4-10 p.m. Thursday and Friday as well as 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Kowalski said the club is always looking for new members, too. They meet weekly at L.A. Bistro on Cherry Hill and Sheldon road. For more information about the club, visit www.cantonrotary.com.



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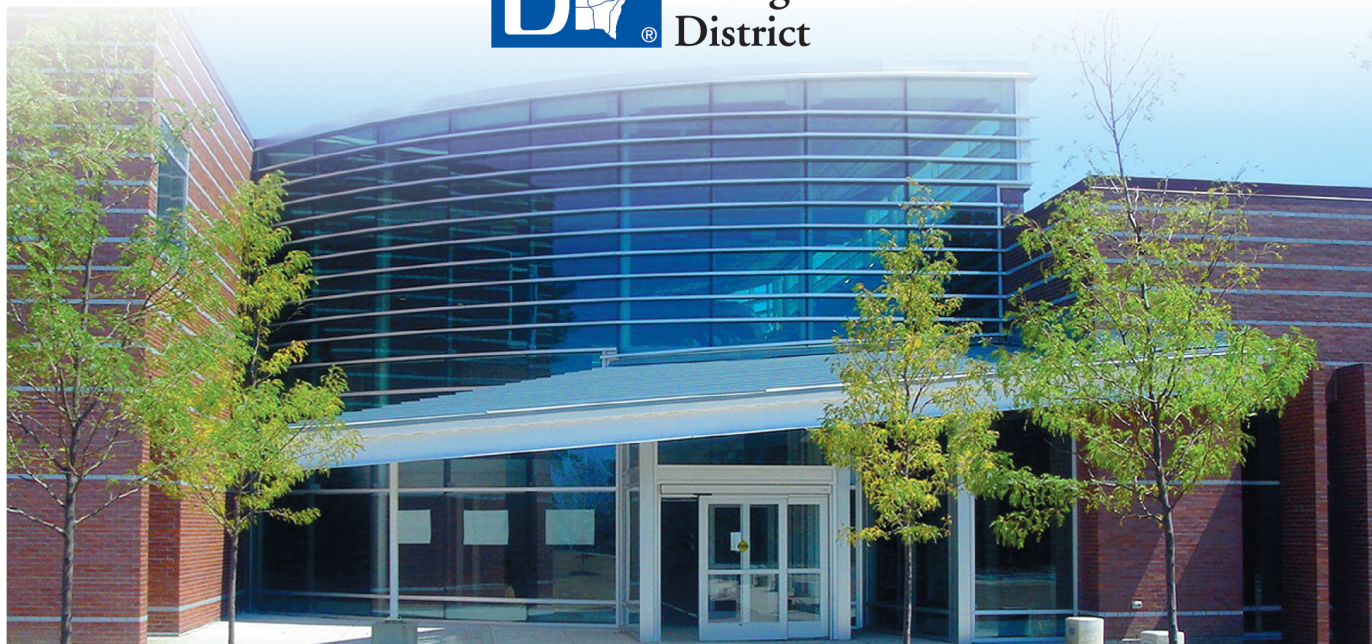
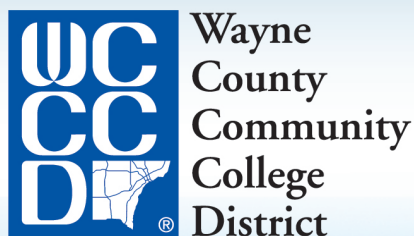
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